Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, at a service provider processor, a payment request to pay a payee on behalf of a

payor, wherein the payment request is associated with debits a payor account;

determining, at the service provider processor, a plurality of debit options, wherein each

debit option of the plurality of debit options is applicable for debiting the payor account, wherein

each debit option is associated with at least one processing factor value, wherein the at least one

processing factor value includes a risk factor value, speed factor value, or a cost factor value;

evaluating, at the service provider processor, the at least one processing factor value for

each debit option;

automatically selecting, at the service provider processor, one of the plurality of debit

options based, at least in part, on the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for

each debit option at least one processing factor, wherein the at least one processing factor is at

least one of a risk factor, a speed factor, and a cost factor;

determining, at the service provider processor, a credit option associated with the one of

the plurality of selected debit options; and

executing, at the service provider processor, the payment request using the selected one of

the plurality of debit options and the credit option.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of debit options include i) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that funds in at least an amount of the payment request are available in the payor account, ii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an entity is available from which to collect funds if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with effecting the payment, iii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to selecting an account to receive an electronic credit associated with the electronic debit, the selected account associated with a payment service provider, iv) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that a risk of financial loss to the payment service provider associated with effecting the payment on behalf of the payor is an acceptable risk, the determination based upon information associated with at least one of an amount of the payment and one or more prior payments effected on behalf of the payor, and v) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an electronic credit can be initiated by the payment service provider to reverse the electronic debit if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with the effected payment.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the debit options is determined based, at least in part, upon at least one of i) the identity of the payee, ii) the identity of the payor, iii) the identity of a financial institution at which the payor account is maintained, iv) the identity of a consumer service provider with which the payor is associated, and v) a type of payment service offered by a payment service provider utilized by the payor.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein executing the payment request

using the one of the second plurality of debit options and the credit option includes issuing an

electronic funds transfer file via the ACH network.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the debit options are determined

based upon the received payment request.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of debit

options is associated with a priority and two or more of the plurality of debit options are

determined as both being selected available, and further comprising:

        determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit

options having a highest associated priority;

        wherein the one of the debit options having the highest associated priority is used to

execute the payment request selected.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein two or more of the plurality of

debit options are determined as both being selected available, and further comprising:

determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more determined debit options associated with a shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor;

wherein the one of the debit options associated with the shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor is used to execute the payment request selected.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected available, and further comprising:

determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit options associated with a lesser cost to a payment service provider;

wherein the one of the debit options associated with the lesser cost to the payment service provider is used to execute the payment request selected.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected available, and further comprising:

determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit options which provides a highest level of protection against financial loss to a payment service provider;

wherein the one of the debit options which provides the highest level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider is used to execute the payment request selected.

12.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a payment request to pay a payee on

behalf of a payor, wherein the payment request ~~is associated with~~ <u>debits</u> a payor account; and

a processor configured to i) determine a plurality of debit options, wherein each debit

option of the plurality of debit options is applicable for debiting the payor account, <u>wherein each</u>

<u>debit option is associated with at least one processing factor value, wherein the at least one</u>

<u>processing factor value includes a risk factor value, speed factor value, or a cost factor value, ii)</u>

<u>evaluate the at least one processing factor value for each debit option,</u> iii) automatically select

one of the plurality of debit options based, at least in part, on <u>the evaluation of the at least one</u>

<u>processing factor value for each debit option,</u> ~~at least one processing factor, wherein the at least~~

~~one processing factor is at least one of a risk factor, a speed factor, and a cost factor, iii~~ <u>iv)</u>

determine a credit option associated with the ~~one of the plurality of~~ <u>selected</u> debit options, and ~~iv)~~

execute the payment request using the ~~one of the plurality of~~ <u>selected</u> debit options and the credit

option.

13.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of debit options

include i) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that funds in at

least an amount of the payment request are available in the payor account, ii) electronically

debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an entity is available from which to

collect funds if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with effecting the

payment, iii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to selecting an account to

receive an electronic credit associated with the electronic debit, the selected account associated

with a payment service provider, iv) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to

determining that a risk of financial loss to the payment service provider associated with effecting the payment on behalf of the payor is an acceptable risk, the determination based upon information associated with at least one of an amount of the payment and one or more prior payments effected on behalf of the payor, and v) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an electronic credit can be initiated by the payment service provider to reverse the electronic debit if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with the effected payment.

14.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein each of the debit options is determined based, at least in part, upon at least one of i) the identity of the payee, ii) the identity of the payor, iii) the identity of a financial institution at which the payor account is maintained, iv) the identity of a consumer service provider with which the payor is associated, and v) a type of payment service offered by a payment service provider utilized by the payor.

15.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the execution of the payment request using the one of the second plurality of debit options and the credit option includes issuing an electronic funds transfer file via the ACH network.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the debit options are determined based upon the received payment request.

19.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

each of the plurality of debit options is associated with a priority;

two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected available; and

the processor is further configured to i) determine one of the two or more debit options having a highest associated priority, and ii) select process the payment using the one of the debit options having a highest associated priority.

20.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected available; and

the processor is further configured to i) determine the one of the two or more debit options associated with a shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor, and ii) select process the payment using the one of the debit options associated with the shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor.

21.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected available; and

the processor is further configured to i) determine one of the two or more debit options

associated with a lesser cost to a payment service provider, and ii) ~~select~~ process the payment

using the one of the debit options associated with the lesser cost to the payment service provider.

22.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as <u>both</u> being <u>selected</u>

~~available~~; and

the processor is further configured to i) determine one of the two or more debit options

which provides a highest level of protection against financial loss to a payment service provider,

and ii) ~~select~~ process the payment using the one of the debit options which provides the highest

level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider.

23.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining a credit option

associated with the one of the plurality of debit options includes selecting one credit option from

a plurality of ~~a plurality of~~ credit options.

24.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein <u>evaluating the at least one</u>

<u>processing factor value for each debit option includes selecting the at least one processing factor</u>

<u>based on stored preference data</u> ~~automatically selecting one of the plurality of debit options~~

~~based, at least in part, on at least one processing factor includes selecting one of the plurality of~~

~~debit options based, at least in part, on the at least one processing factor associated with a stored~~

~~preference~~, wherein the stored preference <u>data</u> is associated with the payor or a service provider.

25.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the determination that a credit

option associated with the one of the plurality of debit options includes selecting one credit

option from a plurality of a plurality of credit options.

26.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the evaluation of the at least one

processing factor value for each debit option includes selecting the at least one processing factor

based on stored preference data the automatically selection one of the plurality of debit options

based, at least in part, on at least one processing factor includes selecting one of the plurality of

debit options based, at least in part, on the at least one processing factor associated with a stored

preference, wherein the stored preference data is associated with the payor or a service provider.

27.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein each debit option is associated with a plurality of

processing factor values, wherein the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for

each debit option includes evaluating the plurality of processing factor values for each debit

option, and wherein the selection of one of the plurality of debit options is based, at least in part,

on the evaluation of the plurality of processing factor values for each debit option.

28.   (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein each debit option is associated with a plurality

of processing factor values, wherein the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for

each debit option includes evaluating the plurality of processing factor values for each debit

option, and wherein the selection of one of the plurality of debit options is based, at least in part,

on the evaluation of the plurality of processing factor values for each debit option.